

**Mount Vernon
City Council
Study Session
January 20, 2016**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Boudreau at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Boudreau, Councilmembers Fiedler, Hudson, Lindquist, Molenaar, Quam, and Ragan

Absent: Councilmember Hulst (excused)

Staff Present: Engineering Manager Chesterfield, Police Chief Dodd, Community Development Director Hyde, Finance Director Huschka, City Attorney Rogerson, Parks Supervisor Weppler, Community Works Supervisor Wenzl.

Citizens Present: 8

NEW BUSINESS

A. Committee Report : Economic Development Committee, for details please see committee minutes

B. Approval of January 6, 2016 Study Session Minutes

Councilmember Molenaar moved to approve the January 6, 2016 Study Session minutes. Motion seconded by Councilmember Ragan. Motion carried 6-0.

C. Approval of January 15, 2016 payroll checks 105064 – 105106, direct deposit checks numbered 54192 – 54394, and wire transfers numbered 551 -552 in the amount of \$735,070.61.

Councilmember Hudson moved to approve the January 15, 2016 payroll checks 105064 – 105106, direct deposit checks numbered 54192 – 54394, and wire transfers numbered 551 -552 in the amount of \$735,070.61. Motion seconded by Councilmember Quam. Motion carried 6-0.

D. Approval of January 14, 2016 (Period 13, 2015 claims numbered 142969, 142982 – 142985 and 143009 – 143253 in the amount of \$1,850,322.74

Councilmember Lindquist moved to approve the January 14, 2016 (Period 13, 2015) claims numbered 142969, 142982 – 142985 and 143009 – 143253 in the amount of \$1,850,322.74. Motion seconded by Councilmember Fiedler. Motion carried 6-0.

- E. AWC Legislative Priorities: Mayor Boudreau presented the City's 2016 Legislative Priorities that will be presented during the Association of Washington Cities Legislative Action Days. These priorities include:

- Request for solutions to strengthen the intent of the Public Records Act through Alternative Dispute Resolution; reasonable charges for providing electronic data; and reasonable charges for fulfilling requests made for commercial purposes.
- Amendments to Chapter 76.09 RCW regarding forest practices in Urban Growth Areas.
- Support of HB2348 enabling the City to adopt emergency bans of fireworks sales and distribution as well as reform of fireworks violation enforcement.
- Human Services and Housing needs.

Councilmember Lindquist moved to adopt the 2016 Legislative Priorities. Motion seconded by Councilmember Molenaar. Motion carried 6-0.

- F. Confirmation of Mount Vernon Planning Commission Appointments: Mr. Hyde requested Council confirmation of the re-appointment of Al Lyon and the appointment of Christopher Bollinger to the Mount Vernon Planning Commission.

Councilmember Ragan moved to approve the requested appointments to the Mount Vernon Planning Commission. Motion seconded by Councilmember Quam. Motion carried 6-0.

- G. Monthly Parks and Recreation Update: Mr. Weppler presented information regarding recent department activities, which included the Washington State Department of Natural Resources Urban Forestry Restoration Project; some minor and major facility improvements throughout the City including a new roof on Sherman Anderson Concession stand and remodeling of the Hillcrest Lodge Bathroom. The ball fields are getting prepped for the upcoming baseball season. Some upcoming events include the Father/Daughter Valentine Ball. Mr. Wenzl provided a year end analysis of his first eight months in his job as CWP Supervisor. A sidewalk sweeper has been acquired that will help with keeping the moss and weeds under control on the downtown brick walk-ways.

- H. Approval of Property Use Agreement with Skagit Transit: Ms. Chesterfield presented a request for Council to approve a property use agreement with Skagit Transit that would grant Skagit Transit the right to use public rights of way at five specific locations to install and maintain bus stop shelters and concrete pads.

Councilmember Lindquist moved to authorize the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Skagit Transit authorizing the use of public rights of way for the construction of bus stop shelters and concrete pads. Motion seconded by Councilmember Hudson. Motion carried 6-0.

- I. Purchase of Four Police Vehicles: Chief Dodd presented Council with a request for authorization to order four 2016 Police Ford Interceptor Utility vehicles. These were included in the 2016 budget and take four to six months to arrive.

Councilmember Fiedler moved to authorize the ordering of four Police vehicles. Motion seconded by Councilmember Ragan. Motion carried 6-0.

- J. Interlocal Agreement with Skagit County to Receive Grant Funding: Ms. Huschka presented a request for Council to authorize the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Skagit County to receive grant funding in the amount of \$500,000 for the Downtown Flood Protection Project, Phase III. In October 2015 the City applied for a \$500,000 economic development grant funded through the County's Economic Development Public Facilities Distressed/Rural County Sales and Use Tax Program. The Skagit County Board of Commissioners approved this request. This funding provides the last piece of funding needed for Phase III of the project.

Councilmember Lindquist moved to authorize the Mayor to enter into an interlocal agreement with Skagit County to receive \$500,000 in grant funding. Motion seconded by Councilmember Molenaar. Motion carried 6-0.

- K. Presentation on Homelessness: Mayor Boudreau presented information on homelessness and the challenges and impacts within the City of Mount Vernon. This is a complex issue that includes street vagrancy, mental health & substance abuse issues, availability of affordable house and shelter. There are crisis responses that address immediate needs for food, shelter and medical treatment. Long term solutions include affordable housing, jobs and access to support services that enable the participant to stay housed. The models that have the best success rates are supportive housing projects where participants can be assisted in learning necessary skills and have access to other support services. Ms. Joan Penny indicated that homelessness is directly related to availability and affordability of housing. Melanie Corey, Housing Authority of Skagit County Executive Director, said that this area has various types of housing needs ranging from transitional to permanent housing. The Housing Authority is a resource for long term housing only. The waiting list for permanent housing is made up of 2,200 people and the wait time is 7 to 9 years. There are local partners who want to participate in this area by providing support services related to employment, medical care, mental health care and substance abuse cessation programs, but it is important that there is housing first, then connection to services to remain housed and be good tenants can be utilized. Mr. Bill Hinkle, Skagit County Community Action Agency, indicated that during the most recent Skagit County "Homeless Count" 80% to 90% of those counted are originally from Skagit County, and not coming from elsewhere as people often assume. The Community Action Agency is making progress on developing a 40 to 60 unit permanent supportive housing development. There are 1,700 people on the housing list at SCCAA looking for temporary shelters.

The meeting was convened into executive session at 8:35 p.m. and was estimated to last 30 minutes.

- L. Executive Session: Real Estate and Potential Litigation.

The meeting was reconvened at 9:05 p.m.

- M. Real Estate Purchase: Mr. Rogerson presented a request for Council to authorize the City's approval and acceptance of the settlement of property rights necessary for the Downtown Flood Control Project Property Rights and Acquisition, substantially in accord with the terms of settlement identified in the "term sheet" for the Property Rights Acquisition and Settlement Agreement between the City and CCS.

Councilmember Lindquist moved to authorize the City's approval and acceptance of the settlement of property rights necessary for the Downtown Flood Control Project Property Rights and Acquisition, substantially in accord with the terms of settlement identified in the "term sheet" for the Property Rights Acquisition and Settlement Agreement between the City and CCS. The Mayor, upon consultation with the City Attorney is authorized to execute documents necessary to implement this motion. Motion seconded by Councilmember Fiedler. Motion carried 6-0.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

SUBMITTED BY:

Rebecca J. Wade, Recording Secretary

ATTEST:

Alicia D. Huschka, Finance Director

APPROVE:

Jill Boudreau, Mayor